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# Society Of American Foresters National Convention 1999

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# Society Of American Foresters National Convention 1999

by Emily Lauren Widmer

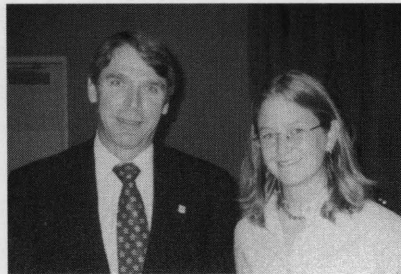


William Banzaf, SAF Executive Director, Emily Widmer, Jason Codner, & James E. Coufal, SAF President

This year six Iowa State University Forestry students were able to attend the Society of American Foresters National Convention. The convention was held from September 11-15, in Portland, Oregon. Portland provided the perfect background for the largest annual gathering of natural resource professionals and students in the world. The Portland convention center was nestled on the banks of the Willamette River. Within a day's drive, there was the opportunity to see the Columbia River Gorge, Mt. St. Helen's, or Mt. Rainer (we took advantage of all of these opportunities). The purpose of the meeting is to exchange information and ideas, and to gain an understanding of how individuals can better manage and conserve our nation's natural resources today and for future generations. For students, the meeting was to serve as a large forestry classroom and an opportunity to reaffirm our choice to become part of the forestry profession. The students in attendance were: Jason Codner, Rodney Jones, Emily Widmer, Ben Haynes, David Carter, and Heather Hoskins. Congratulations are in order for Rodney Jones and Jason Codner who were awarded scholarships to the Convention from the SAF Diversity Committee.

The convention provides a glimpse of the professional world of forestry, while introducing students to all of the different disciplines and job opportunities that are encompassed in forestry. Interaction between professionals and students offers a valuable training ground for development of essential knowledge, communication skills, and interview techniques, not to mention the opportunity to show what you know in a forestry forum, while absorbing new information from speakers, literature, and professional foresters.

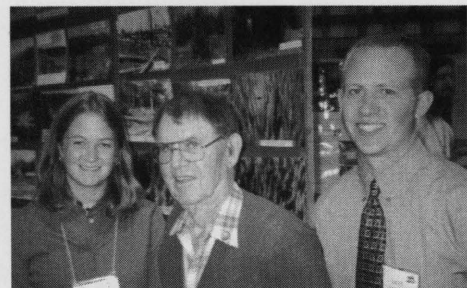
The variety of guest speakers provided opportunities to learn about the current state of America's timber resources and ways to ensure sustainability in our future. One of the most memorable speaker's was Mae Jameson, a female astronaut that shared her experiences and knowledge about being a female professional in the field of science. Jamie Pinkham, a member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, spoke about the tribe's use of an integrated approach to sustainability on their tribal forests. Certainly, a highlight of the convention was the alumni reception.



Mike Dombeck, U.S. Forest Service Chief & Heather Hoskins

## 1999-2000 SAF Officers

Jason Codner	President
Heather Hoskins	Vice-Pres
Keri Bolluyt	Secretary
Emily Widmer	Treasurer



Heather Hoskins, Royce Cox (B.S. '39), & David Carter

This provided the current students in attendance with an opportunity to mingle with ISU forestry graduates. All of the students were also invited to a diversity breakfast, although the early hour of 6:00 a.m. was prohibitive for some of the students, several managed to attend. The forum of the breakfast encouraged students to interact with professionals seated at their tables. The diversity council set up some "get to know me" games that allowed people to comfortably interact with one another. It also provided students with opportunities to meet potential employers. The annual awards banquet provided the staff of the 1999 Ames Forester with some good memories. It was here that the co-editor's Emily Widmer and Jason Codner were presented with an award for placing second in the SAF National Student Publication Contest.

Next year the Society of American Foresters will celebrate their one-hundredth birthday at the national convention. It is scheduled to be held November 16-20, 2000, in our capitol, Washington D.C. It should be a wonderful celebration. I encourage student members of Iowa chapter of the SAF to attend, it promises to be a wonderful learning opportunity.